QUOTE OF THE

HERE IS ONLY ONE GOOD, **KNOWLEDGE, AND ONE EVIL, IGNORANCE SOCRATES**

News in brief

♦ Defence Minister Israel Katz vowed yesterday that Israel would remain in Gaza and pledged to establish outposts there, but his office swiftly downplayed the remarks made at a settlement in the occupied West Bank. In comments reported across Israeli media, Katz said Israel "will never leave" the devastated Palestinian territory. His remark come as mediators are pressing for the implementation of the next phases of a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, which would involve an Israeli withdrawal from the territory. US

President Donald Trump's 20-point plan for

Israel defence minister vows to establish outposts in

the truce stated that "Israel will not occupy or annex Gaza." Speaking at an event in the Israeli settlement of Beit El in the West Bank. Katz said: "We are deep inside Gaza, and we will never leave Gaza -- there will be no such thing," "We are there to protect, to prevent what happened" from happening again, he added, according to a video published by Israeli news site Ynet

UK man, five others accused of sex offences against ex-wife appear in court and raping his ex-wife

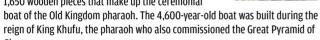
♦ A British man accused of drugging over 13 years, and five

other men charged with various sexual offences against her, appeared yesterday in a UK court. Philip Young spoke only to confirm his name and other details when he appeared separately at Swindon Magistrates Court, west of London, for his first hearing. The 49-year-old, reportedly a former Conservative councillor, was remanded in custody ahead of the next hearing at Swindon Crown Court on January 23. He was not required to enter a plea at this stage. He is charged with 56 offences, including rape and administering a substance with intent to stupify his 48-year-old former spouse Joanne Young, who has waived her legal right to anonymity. Voyeurism, possession of indecent images of children and

possession of extreme images are among the other charges filed against Young. The alleged offences occurred between 2010 and 2023. Later Tuesday, five **museum begins** other men -- aged 31 to 61 -- appeared in the same magistrates' courtroom to hear the charges against

Egypt's grand live restoration of ancient boat

◆ **Egypt began** a public live restoration of King Khufu's ancient solar boat at the newly-opened Grand Egyptian Museum yesterday, more than 4,000 years after the vessel was first built. Egyptian conservators used a small crane to carefully lift a fragile, decayed plank into the Solar Boats Museum hall -- the first of 1,650 wooden pieces that make up the ceremonial



SPOTLIGHT

Egypt high-speed trains to connect Red Sea, Mediterranean



A man walks with a suitcase at Cairo Central Station **AFP** | New Administrative Capital, Egypt

east of Cairo for Egypt's first form the first of three highhigh-speed train, which will speed tracks across the counlink the Red Sea and the Med- try. iterranean in the latest attempt to modernise transport in the 2,000 kilometre-network will vast country.

Described by transport min- per day. ister Kamel al-Wazir as a "new as little as three hours.

The Green Line, as it is figures. known, is the latest of a long list of megaprojects under- across the country's north, taken by Egyptian President from Ain Sokhna on the Red Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's govern- Sea to Marsa Matrouh on the ment in the past decade -- the Mediterranean, crossing two crowning jewel of which is a Cairo satellite cities -- the New still sparsely populated \$58 Administrative Capital to the billion New Administrative east, and to the west 6th of Capital east of Cairo.

In 2021, Egypt signed a \$4.5 only dry port.

billion contract with a consortium that includes German Workers have started lay- company Siemens to establish ing tracks in the desert the Green Line, which will

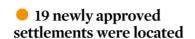
> Authorities hope the nearly carry 1.5 million passengers

Egypt's existing train net-Suez Canal on rails", the pro- work -- used by a million peoiect is slated to be completed ple every day -- is plagued by in 2028, and will carry passen- infrastructure and maintegers and cargo the 660-kilo- nance problems that caused metre (410-mile) distance in nearly 200 accidents last year, according to official

> The Green Line will run October City, home to Egypt's

Israel tightening control over West Bank with new settlements

More than 500,000 Israelis live in the West Bank



Five of the 19 settlements already existed

Israel has occupied the territory since 1967

AFP | Ramallah, Palestinian

he Palestinian Authority condemned yesterday Israel's recent approval of 19 settlements in the occupied West Bank, accusing it of tightening its control over Palestinian land.

On Sunday, Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich announced the authorities had greenlit the settlements, saying the move was aimed at prevent- bank ing the establishment of a Palestinian state.

approval as a "dangerous step aimed at tightening colonial control over the entirety of Palestinian land", calling it a continuation nexed by Israel in 1967, more than of "apartheid, settlement, and annexation policies that under- Bank, along with about three milmine the inalienable rights of the lion Palestinian residents. Palestinian people".

ical cover for accelerating the were located in what it described plunder of Palestinian lands, ex- as "highly strategic" areas, addpanding settlement infrastruc- ing that two of them -- Ganim ture... alongside an escalating and Kadim in the northern West pace of settler terrorism against Bank -- would be re-established members of our people and their after being dismantled two decproperties," it said in a statement. ades ago.



The latest move brings the to-The Ramallah-based Palestin- tal number of settlements apian foreign ministry decried the proved over the past three years to 69, Smotrich's office said.

Excluding east Jerusalem, said. which was occupied and an-500,000 Israelis live in the West

Smotrich's office said the 19 "The decision provides polit- newly approved settlements

al-Harithiya, watches from a hill as Israeli Harithiya and Yamoun, west of Jenin in the occupied west bulldozers work in her land Five of the 19 settlements already existed but had not previ- has

A Palestinian woman.

Etaf jaradat from Silat

Israel's decision came days after the United Nations said the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank -- all of which are illegal under international law -- had reached its highest level since at least 2017.

US President Donald Trump recently warned that Israel "would lose all of its support from the United States" if it annexed the West Bank.

ously been granted legal status surged under Israeli law, the statement following break of the Gaza war in Octo-

> on Israel. Israeli troops or settlers have killed at least 1,028 Palestinians in the West Bank -- both militants and civilians -- since the start of the fighting in Gaza, according to an AFP tally based on Palestinian health ministry figures.

> ber 2023 with Hamas's attack

At least 44 Israelis have been killed in the West Bank in Palestinian attacks or Israeli military Israel has occupied the territo- operations during the same periry since 1967, and violence there od, according to Israeli data.

Greta Thunberg arrested at pro-Palestinian protest in London

AFP | London, United Kingdom

London police yesters.

Trested Swedish activist Greta ondon police yesterday ar-Thunberg at a demonstration in support of pro-Palestinian hunger strikers, Palestinian activist groups said.

Thunberg's arrest makes her the highest profile person to be detained by police since the government banned the Palestine Action group under anti-terror

"Greta Thunberg was arrested under the Terrorism Act at the Prisoners for Palestine lock-on protest," Prisoners for Palestine said in a statement.

Thunberg was holding a sign reading "I support the Palestine Action prisoners. I oppose geno- at a building in London's finan- release them, and bring them cide", it added.

The 22-year-old was among hundreds of people who boarded a flotilla in October that tried to used to damage a building". break through the Israeli block-



Swedish activist Greta Thunberg before her arrest by Police officers outside the offices of Aspen Insurance at Plantation Place on Fenchurch Street.

cial quarter.

It said the arrests came after said. "hammers and red paint were

into police custody," a statement

"A little while later, a 22-yearold woman also attended the "A man and a woman have scene. She has been arrested been arrested on suspicion of for displaying an item (in this City of London Police said of- criminal damage. They glued case a placard) in support of a ficers had arrested three people themselves nearby and spe-proscribed organisation (in this to Section 13 of the Terrorism Act on suspicion of criminal damage cialist officers are working to case Palestine Action) contrary 2000," it added.



Greta's global climate movement began entirely on her own: in August 2018, at just 15 years old, she sat alone outside the Swedish Parliament with a handmade sign reading "School strike for climate." Within months. that solitary protest inspired millions of students across more than 150 countries to take part in what became the Fridays for Future movement - one of the largest youthled climate actions in history.